an order providing for price preference to indigenous manufacturer while comparing the bids in an international competitive bidding; if so, what was the quantum of percentage and how much in actual fact was availed; and

(c) whether Government have allowed the import of goods by foreign and Indian companies under contract to ONGC at zero rate of custom duty, if so, whether Government have extended the same facility for import of raw material and components for the manfacturers of such goods within the country for supply to above mentioned foreign and Indian companies, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Deemed export benefits earlier available for supplies to ONGC, OIL and GAIL have been withdrawn with effect from 30.3.1994, where procurements are funded by these organisations. However deemed export benefits continue to be available for procurements funded by multilateral/ bilateral funding agencies like World Bank, ADB. As a transitional measure, the deemed export benefits would be available in those cases where contracts have been awarded by ONGC, OIL and GAIL on or before 29.3.1994. This is likely to enhance the competitiveness of the Indian industry.

(c) Presently the domestic bidders are free to quote and receive payment in any currency in the international competitive bidding of ONGC, OIL and GAIL. This has no major impact on India's foreign exchange reserves.

(b) At present, the indigenous manufacturers are entitled to a price preference of 15% over the CIF quoted price of the lowest acceptable bidder in the global tenders of ONGC, OIL and GAIL. The actual quantum of price preference availed by the bidder would depend on the prices quoted in the tender.

(e) Under the present Export Import Policy, where supply of goods to any project of purpose in respect of which the Ministry of Finance, by a notification, permits the import of such goods at zero customs duty, domestic suppliers will be eligible for deemed export benefits. The deemed export benefits include import of raw material and components by Indian companies at zero duty for manufacturing goods within the country for domestic supply.

Spot purchase of Crude Oil

7792. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any procedure for the spot purchase of crude oil has been laid down;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the spot purchase of crude has been canalised through nominated agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof with quantum of oil purchased through the system during 1993;

(e) whether Government proposed to lay down similar procedure for the spot purchase of the petroleum products;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) (a) to (g) Spot purchases of crude oil is canalised through Indian Oil Corporation. The purchases are made through issue of tenders to parties already registered with the Indian Oil Corporation and contracts awarded on competitive basis. Indian Oil Corporation had firmed up about 9.661 MMT of crude oil from spot market during 1993. Spot purchases of petroleum products are also made through the above procedure.